

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 DHA-02  
/065 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RFILLING:CJ  
APPROVED BY AF/E:RSPOST  
-----114797 082335Z /65  
O 082318Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159421

E.O. 11652: GDS

'AGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ETHIOPIAN EXECUTIONS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4202

1. DEPT PRESS SPOKESMAN ON JULY 7 RECEIVED QUERY FROM REV. LESTER KINSOLVING OF STATION WAVA IN VIRGINIA RE WHAT DEPT HAS DONE ABOUT "126 ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS EXECUTED ON JUNE 23, DEATHS WHICH JODY POWELL CHARACTERIZED AS 'DEPLORABLE'". SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL ACTIONS AS FAR AS HE KNEW BUT THAT HE WOULD CHECK ON IT. DEPT PLANS NO FURTHER COMMENT.

2. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING JULY 6 BETWEEN JODY POWELL AND REV. KINSOLVING:

QUESTION: REUTERS REPORTED ON JUNE 23 THAT ETHIOPIA, DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF AMMUNITION, HAS HELD A MASS EXECUTION OF  
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123 STUDENTS BY DYNAMITE. I WAS WONDERING HOW DOES THE PRESIDENT REACT TO THIS FORM OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT?

MR. POWELL: I THINK THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION TO THAT WOULD BE OBVIOUS, AS ANYBODY ELSE'S.

QUESTION: NOT THE ETHIOPIANS. HOW DOES HE FEEL ABOUT IT?

MR. POWELL: OBVIOUSLY BLOWING FOLKS UP WITH DYNAMITE  
IS SOMETHING TO BE GREATLY DEPLORED.

QUESTION: SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE HAD THEIR THROATS  
SLASHED. HOW DOES HE FEEL ABOUT THAT? (LAUGHTER)

MR. POWELL: CAN WE SUM THIS UP? DOES ANYBODY ELSE HAVE  
A PARTICULARLY MACABRE FORM OF EXECUTION THEY WANT TO DEAL  
WITH?

QUESTION: IS THERE ONE TYPE HE FEELS IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN  
ANY OTHERS?

QUESTION: JODY --

MR. POWELL: JUST A SECOND. BUD?

QUESTION: I JUST WANT TO GET YOUR ASSESSMENT --

MR. POWELL: THERE ARE OTHER FUN THINGS YOU CAN TALK  
ABOUT.

3. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE LOCATE REUTERS REPORT. IT MAY  
HAVE BEEN BASED ON REPORT LAST MONTH ALLEGING MASS EXECU-  
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TION USING DYNAMITE AND THROAT-CUTTING DUE SHORTAGES OF  
AMMUNITION. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** ALLEGATIONS, EXECUTIONS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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